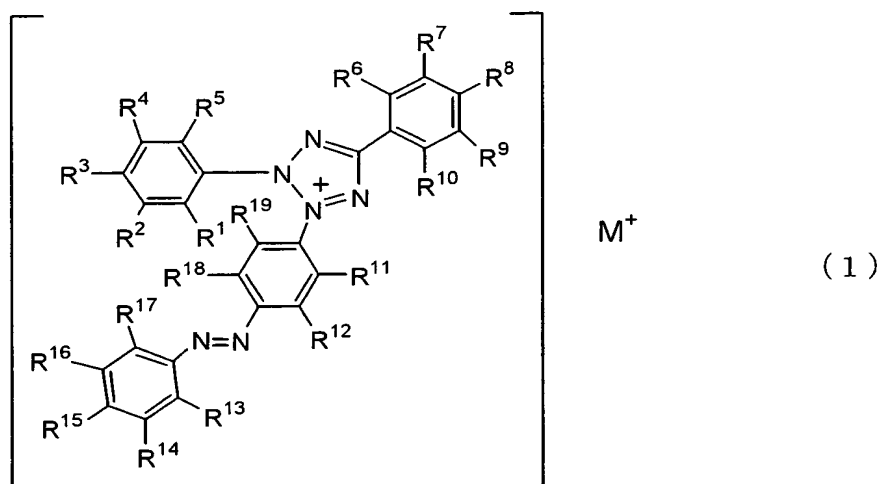


CLAIMS

1. A water soluble tetrazolium compound expressed by the following general formula (1):

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wherein each of R¹ to R¹⁹ independently represents hydrogen atom; nitro group; sulfonate group; or alkyl, alkoxy, sulfoalkyl or sulfoalkyloxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; provided that each of at least two of R¹ to R¹⁹ independently represents sulfonate group; or sulfoalkyl or sulfoalkyloxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and M represents an alkali metal or ammonium ion.

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2. A process for a quantitative analysis of dehydrogenase or substrate thereof, in which a tetrazolium compound of claim 1 is utilized.

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3. The process of claim 2, in which the activity of the dehydrogenase present in cultured cells is measured.

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4. The process of claim 2, in which the activity of the dehydrogenase leaked out of cells is measured.